

# AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL

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THE OLDEST BEE-PAPER IN AMERICA

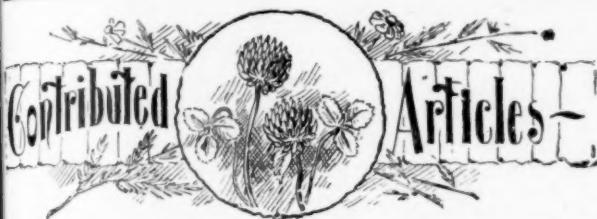
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No. 7.



## Selling Honey on Commission—Farming.

BY EMERSON T. ABBOTT.

Let me give the bee-keepers who read the American Bee Journal a hint on the subject of selling honey on commission.

The entire commission business is founded on a false basis, and is contrary to sound business principles. *Do not ship honey, or anything else, to any one to be sold on commission*, is my advice. Think of employing a man to act as your agent, whom you have never seen, about whose business push and energy you know very little, and of whose facilities for placing goods you know comparatively nothing! This is surely not very sound business. You would not hire hand to work on your farm or in your apiary under your direct supervision in this loose way. If merchants have facilities for selling honey, they know it. Then let them buy honey and pay a fixed sum for it, and it will be their own business when they sell it, *how much they get for it*, etc.

Did you ever think of the fact that you are loaning the man to whom you ship your honey that much capital to do business on? He does the business on your capital, takes out his pay, and gives you what is left. How many of you would loan an entire stranger that amount of money without any security? Not one. Why, then, furnish these men capital on which to transact business?

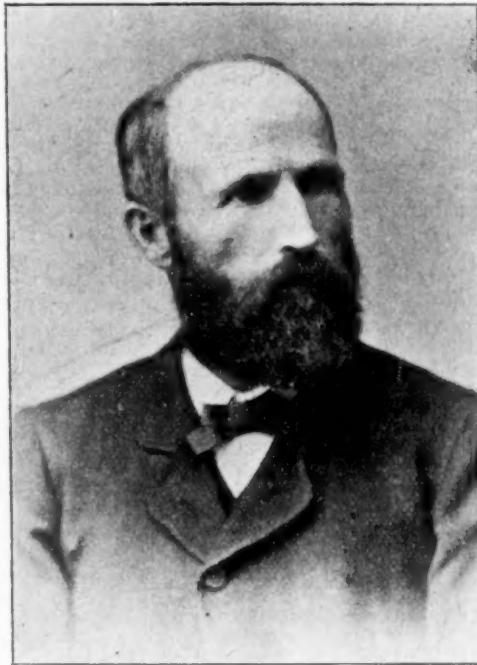
The commission business, like the miscellaneous credit business, is sure to prove very unsatisfactory in the end, and I am not sure but it should prove so to those who are so unbusinesslike as to encourage this method of disposing of goods. Most commission men are honest and honorable, in my opinion, but they are all doing business on a false basis. No man could buy (?)—get anything of me in that way. Sell for cash and get cash, and you will have no trouble about returns.

### IS FARMING DRUDGERY?

On page 2, Mr. Thompson talks of the "constant round of work which is drudgery just because it is not specialty," and says it stultifies the minds of forty families out of fifty so that they cannot "regard the care of bees in any other light than that which one regards milking, cleaning stables or baking bread." Well, why should they? It is no more demanding to milk a cow or clean out a stable than it is to care for a colony of bees, or write a poem, for that matter. Any work can be made drudgery, and the most disagreeable work may become a certain source of enjoyment, if one will look at it in the right light. It is no more necessary to rise at unreasonable hours to succeed as a farmer or bee-keeper than it is to succeed as a lawyer or doctor. If farm life is so stultifying to man's intellectual life, why is it that some of our best and ablest men come from the farm? There is an intelligent way to milk a cow, clean a stable, hen-house or horse, as well as to make a loaf of bread. There is an education, too, in all

of this, if one only knows how to get it out. I know just what I am talking about, for I grew up on a farm, and have not gotten beyond cleaning my own hen-house, stable and horse yet, and the only reason I do not milk is, I do not have room for the cows. I find recreation in all of these things, and education, too; and, if it were not for them, I should soon have to cease all intellectual work. No, sir; no necessary work is drudgery unless we make it so. I commend to all who think the contrary the following, said to have been written by Mrs. Garfield to her husband:

"I am glad to tell you that, out of all the toil and disappointments of the summer just ended, I have risen up to a



Mr. Edwin Bevins, Leon, Iowa.—See page 101.

victory. I read something like this the other day: 'There is no healthy thought without labor, and thought makes the labor happy.' Perhaps this is the way I have been able to climb up higher. It came to me one morning when I was making bread. I said to myself: 'Here I am, compelled by an inevitable necessity to make our bread this summer. Why not consider it a pleasant occupation, and make it so by trying to see what perfect bread I can make?' It seemed like an inspiration, and the whole of life grew brighter. The very sunshine seemed flowing down through my spirit into the white loaves; and now I believe my table is furnished with better bread than ever before. And this truth, old as creation, seems just now to have become fully mine—that I need not be the shirking slave of toil, but its regal master, making whatever I do yield its best fruits."

Feb. 13,

No; I would not make a lot of "small specialists" on the farm, for here, if anywhere, "variety is the spice of life." The specialist is the narrow-minded man; he runs in one groove, he studies one thing, he lives in one atmosphere, he learns one kind of phraseology, and perforce of his being a specialist continually turns out one grist. He may become an expert in some special line, he may get rich, but a broad-minded man, in sympathy with universal humanity, he never can be.

Then, how far shall the idea of a specialist be carried? Some have devoted their lives to the study of one language, but others have looked upon this as a great mistake. I have seen it stated somewhere that the last regret of a noted German philologist was that he had not confined the labors of his life to the *dative case*. Such men have their work and place in the world, but the ordinary every-day work of life must be done, and it is generally done, by those who are not specialists.

Children are crying everywhere because they are not provided with a delicious and healthy sweet like honey. If they are to have it, it must be produced on the thousands of farms all over our broad land. The farmer who devotes all of his energies to other things and buys his honey usually has none, as he generally thinks times too hard to buy honey; and so it comes to pass, that to heed the cry of those who would confine the production of honey to specialists is to rob thousands of the pleasure and health which is to be derived from the use of this delicious sweet three times a day, 365 days in the year. Honey-production belongs to agriculture. No specialty for me in this line.

St. Joseph, Mo.



### Some Subjects Reviewed and Commented Upon

BY DR. C. C. MILLER.

**CRIMSON CLOVER.**—S. LaMont says, on page 78, that his four acres sowed to crimson clover in October, didn't come up, and from what he says I suspect he means to plow it up and sow again. Perhaps it might be worth while to let it alone just as it is. I know the general teaching is that it must be sown in the fall and get a start so as to live over winter. But lately a writer in one of the foreign journals says that with him it does best when sowed in the spring. Last spring I had some sown with oats at the usual time for sowing oats, or rather a little later. It was not a remarkable success, dry weather being against it, still most of it succeeded in blooming, and if the seed lies in the ground over winter it is possible it may succeed a good deal better than mine did. At least, let a small patch of it try its chances without being disturbed, Mr. LaMont, and then report how it comes out.

**BREEDING OFF WINGS.**—Here's a new suggestion sent me by J. R. Felt, of Rochester, N. Y.:

DR. MILLER:—There have been so many articles in the American Bee Journal upon "breeding out the swarming influence," that I think it is time for some one to write upon "breeding wingless queens," for that certainly would stop the swarming.

J. R. FELT.

Yes, they wouldn't swarm if their wings were bred off, at least a queen couldn't go with a swarm if her wings were bred off, and neither could she if her head was bred off, but there's this difference between that and breeding out the swarming habit, that many desire the latter and no one desires the former. Still, I'd rather have a good plan of management to prevent swarming, habit or no habit.

**THAT ADMITTED FAILURE.**—Mr. Editor, please stop my paper, or else stop that man Brodbeck abusing me on page 78. Now, look here, my Brod-minded friend, when you say without any qualification or limitation that a thing is an "admitted failure," I think it would always be understood that every one, or at least nearly every one considered it a failure. If you could get ten men to testify very positively that the North American was an utter failure, that alone would hardly justify you in saying it was an admitted failure.

But you don't get the testimony of ten men. You stand three men up in a row, and two of them don't give the least hint that they ever dreamed of such a thing as the North American being a failure. They merely say it is not representative. It isn't necessary to be representative to be a success. I think you had a successful convention of bee-keepers in California, but I think it didn't make the slightest attempt at being representative.

That narrows you down to the testimony of the Rev. W. F. Clarke, who thinks if it cannot be made representative "it might as well be given a decent funeral." He has made some statements about the North American in a late number of

Gleanings that I don't believe he can substantiate, and until he does substantiate them I don't believe his testimony would be considered of any great weight in the matter.

Say, Friend Brodbeck, between you and me, the North American has had some very successful meetings, and you would have said so if you had been present. Ask Prof. Cook, one of your own men. If they were admitted failures, do you think men would pay so much to attend them year after year, men, too, who have advanced beyond the primary class of bee-keepers?

**COMMISSIONS—QUEEN-CELLS.**—Gustave Gross, of Milford, Wis., writes me as follows:

DR. MILLER:—I noticed in the Bee Journal what you say about commissions in Chicago. I have shipped every year for five years, and have always been charged 10 per cent by J. A. Lamon and R. A. Burnett & Co. The latter firm, however, charge only 5 per cent. when the shipment amounts to \$100 and over.

There is another matter I'd like to mention—the cutting of queen-cells to prevent after-swarms. I have practiced it in over 1,000 cases, and never missed but three cells. The ones that I found the most dangerous (easy to overlook) are built horizontally at the bottom of the comb, from one side to the other. If I had trusted to "Langstroth Revised," I should never have looked for queen-cells in that place, for it says that queen-cells always hang with their mouths *downward*.

GUSTAVE GROSS.

It seems that I was wrong in thinking that 5 per cent. was the regular and only commission on sales of honey in Chicago. It shows that for some years I have shipped no honey to Chicago on commission. Years ago I shipped more or less there, and was never charged more than 5 per cent., no matter how small the shipment. I think no house at that time charged more than 5 per cent., but I will be glad to be corrected if wrong. In some other cities at that time the commission was 10 per cent. It would be a good idea to have full information as to rates and rules in the different places.

Missing only three queen-cells in a thousand may be called very successful work. But this was after natural swarming, and if it had been after the removal of the queen without swarming the result probably would have been quite different. In that case the most difficult cells to find are not always the ones between comb and bottom-bar, but those right on the middle of the comb, but projecting so little above its surface as to be scarcely noticed.

Bees build queen-cells mouth *downward* where they can. Where the situation will not allow it, they make an exception to the rule.

**SELLING HONEY ON COMMISSION.**—The following letter gives some experience in selling honey:

DR. MILLER:—You ask, on page 38, if commission houses in Chicago charge 10 per cent. I enclose a bill and letters from a well-known house, which shows that he not only charges 10 per cent., but charges drayage also. Of the honey sent one lot was extra fine basswood, and the other was mostly basswood, but colored slightly. You will see by one of his letters that the honey was all right except the packages (one gallon cans). He also docked me 45 pounds—something I have never had done before.

W. H. YOUNG.

Accompanying the above letter was an account of sales from J. A. Lamon, of 345 pounds of No. 1 honey, at 6 cents per pound, \$20.70; 690 pounds of No. 2 honey, at 5½ cents per pound, \$37.95; total, \$58.65.

From this was deducted—freight, \$7.56; drayage, 75 cents; commission, \$5.85—total, \$14.16. Net proceeds, \$4.49.

The honey was put up in one-gallon cans, which was more expensive than to use larger cans. If the popular 60-pound cans were used, it would require 18 cans, and I suppose these would have cost, delivered, about \$6.50. Deducting this from the \$44.49 leaves \$37.99 clear money for the 1,080 pounds of honey, or just about an even 3½ cents a pound.

I commend a careful study of those figures to any one who contemplates shipping to a city market. It does seem as if that honey might have been sold at home for 5 cents a pound, in which case there would have been a gain of \$16, and that would have paid for several days' peddling in the surrounding towns.

If Mr. Young is correct, each can held 12 pounds, but Mr. Lamon says: "Those cans were filled out at 11½ pounds each, and that is all we could get for them." It

doesn't seem the right thing to sell for less than the actual weight. Perhaps Mr. Lamon, or some one else, can tell us whether that is the common practice, and if so, what there is to justify the practice. In the present instance it is a practice that cost Mr. Young \$2.30.

Marengo, Ill.



### The "Handy" Shipping-Crate Described.

BY B. TAYLOR.

A recent letter from Dr. Miller contained the following self-explaining slip:

DR. MILLER:—I wish you could get Mr. B. Taylor to tell the readers of the American Bee Journal just exactly how he makes that wood and paper crate weighing  $2\frac{1}{4}$  pounds only. (See his essay, read at the Toronto convention, page 615, 1895.) Do try and induce him to give particulars. Seems to me improvement is greatly needed in this item. S. D.

The above note is from S. A. Deacon, South Africa; and for the Doctor's sake, as well as his distant brother's, I hasten to explain.

The B. Taylor Handy shipping-crates are made of very light wood, lined with water-proof building-paper. For an 18-section crate there are two side-pieces  $13\frac{1}{2}$  inches long,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  wide, and  $\frac{3}{8}$  thick; top and bottom are  $14\frac{1}{2}$  by 11 inches, and  $\frac{3}{8}$  thick. The front end is two pieces of wood 11 inches long, and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  wide,  $5/16$  thick, with a strip of glass  $1\frac{1}{2}$  wide between their grooved edges. The end is of solid wood, 11 inches long,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  wide,  $\frac{1}{4}$  thick. These pieces are nailed strongly with very slender wire finishing-brads. The grain of the wood in top, bottom and ends goes across the crate. Good, clear soft pine is used, and is dressed very smooth, making a neat, handsome box  $14\frac{1}{2}$  long, 11 inches wide, and  $4\frac{1}{2}$  deep, outside measure, and holds two courses of handy sections, of nine sections each. (The "handy" section is four-piece,  $4\times 5$  inches, and eight to the foot.)

The paper is made into a shallow pan, with sides one inch high, and as large as the inside of the crate. One of these paper pans is placed in the bottom of the crate, the sections put in, and another slipped over their top, and the cover nailed over all, with  $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch wire flat-head nails. (The flat heads will not pull through in prying off the cover.)

The cover is in two pieces, so that in using the honey, one-half may be uncovered at a time, the paper cut away as the honey is used, and the remainder kept clean and free from dust until all is used.

These crates are very popular with private families who buy honey by the crate. I put up my finest goods for this kind of customers, and sell most of my honey in my home market in that way. I have not sent a crate of honey to the large city markets for years. This settles the contention with the commission men, good or bad, and saves heavy freight charges. Brethren, go and do likewise.

Forestville, Minn.



### To Avoid Being Stung by the Bees.

BY C. P. DADANT.

To avoid the anger of bees, no method has ever been found that compares with the use of smoke. This evidently frightens them better than any other thing ever tried. The principle underlying the present practical system of management in the handling of bees was clearly stated by Mr. Langstroth, years ago: "A honey-bee, when heavily laden with honey, never volunteers an attack, but acts solely on the defensive." We may subdue our bees temporarily without compelling them to fill themselves with honey, but in such cases their peaceableness is only superficial, and a quick or careless motion may suffice to irritate them. Not so, when they have once filled themselves with honey through fright, for it becomes them almost impossible to arouse them.

But other methods than smoke have been used and recommended to keep the bees quiet. Preparations of chemicals, "the Apifuge of Grimshaw," a solution of carbolic acid recommended by some English bee-keepers, and different other ingredients have been used, with more or less success. The lovers of animal magnetism and hypnotism have asserted that bees may be subdued by magnetic influences, and there is undoubtedly something in the manners of an operator who is self-confident, that subdues them in just the same way that the wild animals of the menageries are subdued by their trainer. Evidently, faith in one's powers has a great deal to do with success, and I have just read an article in the *Revue Internationale*, from the witty pen of the eminent graphologist,

Mr. Crepleux-Jamin, on the superstitions of Normandy and the subduing of bees by prayers. Yes, by prayers! Is this not a task almost equal to the converting of R. G. Ingersoll by the same means? But let me quote Mr. Jamin's article:

"The Norman, formerly great friend of adventure, has become the slave of habit. It is among populations of this kind that one has a chance of finding, in their habits, customs and language, traces of their origin, and to live over, through the past, without ceasing to enjoy the present. Truly, peasants are custom-led everywhere, but not everywhere in the same manner. Thus, in some parts they are rough, in others their habits are improved by a tendency to art, in others again they are more or less progressive, but in Normandy they are unintelligible, *routinier*, and unpolished. I speak, as a matter of course, of the real *paysan*, of the countryman after Nature, for the educated man is the same everywhere, the first result of a mind-culture being the unification of tendencies, through a methodical spirit which renders these tendencies uniform."

"It is well known that the Norman never says squarely, yes or no. We tested this fully when making inquiries among the bee-owners of the vicinity of Rouen. It is impossible to find out whether their bees are prosperous, whether the honey was good, the crop large, etc.

"Did you have any swarms?" "Sometimes."

"How many?" "Some years we have some, and some years we have none."

"But how about this year?" "Perhaps we had some."

"Don't you know whether you had swarms or not?" "We don't bother much about it."

"May I go and see your bees?" "Some people say that it is not good."

"What is not good?" "May be you know it as well as I do."

You may converse in this way for an hour. Remember that it is a tradition among the Normans that visiting strangers are prejudicial to the apairy. The bees do not like their inquisitiveness. Is it not charming to grant our little pets peevish feelings that we would not allow in our daughters?

When the master dies, the bees are put in mourning, by fastening crape to each hive. This custom still exists in many parts of Europe. It rests, however, on very correct observation. When the master disappears, if no one cares for the bees, they will soon die out or leave, from lack of care. To put them in mourning is to show an interest in them, to shelter them from sun or rain, and thus the pious custom bears its fruits. In some parts, they never sell bees—they give them away, stingily. The man who sells bees would be condemned by everybody. The reason of this is, evidently, that the bees being considered as a part of the real estate of a farm, the man who sold them in the olden times must have been negligent, or hard up, and very near ruin. At this time the conditions are changed, but the idea remains with its superstitious bearing.

They also make a great noise, in Normandy, when the swarms issue. I have seen, on a farm, some old kettles kept purposely for this usage. It was impossible for me to convince my host of the uselessness of this. The all-powerful tradition is there, and that which has been done, for centuries, cannot be undone in a short time.

But here is a prayer to avoid bee-stings, recited by a farmer's wife at Pont-de-l'arche (Eure):

"Beautiful bee, remember when our Lord washed his hands in the waters of Jordan, how he shook off the drops." (Repeat five times bareheaded.) Add to this the Lord's prayer, five times, and the prayer to the Virgin, five times. It is rather long, but they say it is sometimes very effectual. In this instance, with me, it was a failure; I had a veil; I was not stung, but the farmer's wife went home with a swollen nose. "Beautiful bee, remember...."

You have no idea, dear reader, of the trouble I had to obtain the text of this prayer. Above all things, it is forbidden to write it. It must be taught only to friends, and bareheaded, and they must learn it bareheaded. Here is another:

"In the dew of the morning, Jesus washed his hands. He dropped from his fingers three drops of water, which gave birth to three bees, to make wax to serve at the holy Mass. Bees of the Lord, do not sting. Bees of the Lord, do not swarm."

These formulas, transmitted from mouth to mouth for centuries, are evidently incomplete, so they have but little sense, but what of it? Let us smile kindly at the peasant who does not care for the meaning, and is contented with an unmeaning text, for in a manner his faith is respectable.

The prayers to keep bees from swarming or from stinging are probably numerous. Michelet informs us, in his "Origins of French Common Law," that an old manuscript of

St. Gall contains a formula to call the queen. Here is the text translated from the Latin:

"I adjure thee, mother of the bees, in the name of the Lord, King of Heaven, and of the Redeemer, Son of God, I adjure thee to fly neither far nor high, but to come back at once to thy tree. There thou wilt alight with all thy lineage or thy friends. I have there a good receptacle in which you will work in the name of the Lord."

This prayer is more interesting, for it is whole. Take notice, that in all these prayers our little friends have a fine role. They are begged and supplicated, and treated as rational people. They are even granted faculties which they do not possess; for instance, the capacity of recognizing their owner. This is a very frequent error which is not worth refuting. There will always be ignorant people who will neither read a journal nor attend a convention. But even a bee-keeper with movable-frame hives has asserted to me that when he goes to the flower-market his bees come and settle on his shoulders.

Let me close with the text of the law concerning bees, taken from the *Etablissements de St. Louis*. We have found this also in the book of Michelet above mentioned:

"If one has swarms and they escape, and he to whom they belong sees them go and follows them at sight without losing, and they settle in any place, or manor, and he on whose place they have settled takes them before he comes, and if he says after, 'They are mine,' and the other says, 'I believe you not,' then they will transport before the judge where the first man will swear that the swarms are his, and by this will have them and will pay the other the value of the vessel in which they have been collected." (XIIIth century.)

"CREPIEUX-JAMIN."

Let me add that the writer of the above is the author of a very interesting book, an exhaustive treatise on graphology, or the science of discovering one's character by his handwriting. I must acknowledge that I had always considered this study as absolutely useless, but a hurried glance over the book, kindly presented to my father, by the author, has convinced me that there is a great deal more in this science than any one can imagine, by a hasty survey of its broadest outlines.

Hamilton, Ill.



### An Essay on Bee-Culture.

Read before the Farmers' Institute at Lancaster, Calif., Dec. 17, 1895.

BY C. H. CLAYTON.

It has been a matter of considerable difficulty for me to prepare something upon the subject of bee-culture that would be measurably satisfactory to myself and beneficial to others.

A celebrated French author has told us that there are two errors into which one is liable to fall—one may "say too little, or one may say too much." The first certainly is a trivial offense, and easily forgiven, but the second is almost unpardonable. Let me err by saying too little, confident that if I succeed in arousing a spirit of inquiry upon this subject, willing and abler peers will come to my aid.

It would be easier for me to take up the subject of Apiculture at its very beginning, and follow it along step by step to the fruition of all our hopes—a fat bank account—than I find it to select from the mass of material at hand such features of the subject as may be submitted to you at this time.

#### A BIT OF BEE-HISTORY.

Bees have been subject to man's control from the very dawn of History. We are informed that the land where Abraham dwelt—Canaan—was a "land flowing with milk and honey." We read also, that at one time there was a famine in the land, and the old Patriarch sent his sons down into Egypt to buy corn, that they might not perish. The young men bore with them as a present from their wise old father, to the ruler of Egypt, a portion of their delicious honey. Even at this early date honey was an article of commerce, and was, along with corn and milk, regarded as one of the necessities of life. For centuries the method of handling bees and preparing their product for use was far different from the method of to-day. The habitation provided for the busy little workers was altogether different from the convenient hive we now use. The hollow-tree, the natural cave in the cliff, and later, the straw "skep" of our grandfather's day lack much of the utilities of the nineteenth century movable-frame hive. Then the bees were usually sulphured—murdered—when the owner wished to secure their stores. Now the whole crop of honey can be secured, practically, without the loss of a bee. It is difficult to realize the great change from the wasteful, barbarous and destructive ways of early times to the enlightened

and humane methods of the present. The advancement has been truly marvelous, keeping fully abreast with the best spirit of this intellectual age.

#### VALUE OF BEES TO FRUIT-BLOSSOMS.

Modern bee-keeping has attained to the dignity of a profession, and its usefulness to all branches of agriculture and horticulture is everywhere recognized. The product gathered by the bee, which would otherwise be wasted, although valuable in itself, is probably of far less importance to the farmer and orchardist than is the work of fertilization so thoroughly performed by the bees in passing from flower to flower. Some flowers are self-fertilizing, but there are many that remain absolutely sterile unless pollen is conveyed to them by mechanical means from other blossoms of the same species. For example, I might name the "stone-fruits," such as the peach and cherry, and apricot. The Bartlett pear is another fruit that will not "set" unless pollination is effected by mechanical means. I mention these fruits because they have fallen more directly under my notice. You will readily call others to mind from your own observations. There can be no longer the shadow of a doubt that many crops of fruit, grain and vegetables are greatly improved in both quantity and quality through the agency of the bees in bringing about perfect fertilization of the blossom.

In the early settlement of the country, this fertilization was perhaps fully accomplished by native insects, but the orchards and fields have been so enlarged that it has become a physical impossibility for the few native insects to accomplish proper fertilization, hence we must more and more depend upon the bee.

Some plants never produce seed because the insects that feed upon their blossoms were not imported with the plants. Red clover was imported into Australia and remained barren until "bumble-bees" were also imported, when it bore seed as in this country.

Fruit-growers, as a matter of self-interest, should be interested in bees, and I feel sure that within a very few years it will be an exceedingly rare thing to find a successful fruit-grower who does not also keep the honey-bee, the main object being to secure perfect pollination of his fruit-bloom, and, incidentally, the production of some honey for his own table. If he produces some to sell, so much the better, it will be a welcome addition to that "fat bank account."

I am engaged in the production of honey for the market, and your production may increase the supply, and this may mean lower prices. Cheaper honey means the ultimate extension of the market. The immediate profits may not be so great, but the foundation for a permanent market will be the more easily and securely laid. We must meet this lower price with better and cheaper methods of production.

In some portions of the country bee-keeping is conducted as a specialty, and under favorable conditions has proven very profitable. But localities where this obtains are comparatively few.

#### THE LOCATION OF AN APRIARY.

It may be proper for me, at this point, to say a few words regarding the location and management of an apiary. If you intend to engage in the business to any considerable extent the question of location with reference to feed, water, etc., is a vital one. Perhaps I can best tell you what you need by describing my own location, which I consider a fairly good one as demonstrated by results:

My apiary is in Soledad canyon, a quarter of a mile from a shipping station, on level ground. There is a range of hills on the southeast, south and southwest, at a distance of from a quarter to a half mile; a range of hills also at about the same distance to the north. These hills shelter the bees from the southeast and southwest storms of winter and the hot northerns of summer. The hives are placed in double rows, 30 inches from centers, and rows 8 feet from outside to outside. This leaves an alleyway about 4½ feet wide between the rows for workway. A space of 25 feet is left between each set of double rows. There are openings left through the rows at convenient intervals. Each hive is placed so that the end of the frame as it hangs in the hive is toward the 2-o'clock sun. This throws one-half of the entrances a little west of south, and the other half in exactly the opposite direction. This position reduces the danger of melting down from the great heat we sometimes experience, by exposing to the hottest sun two thicknesses of wood with bee-space between. If the sun shines upon the side of the hive you have only one thickness of wood for protection. Those of you who have had young fruit-trees blistered by the sun, will know why I say the "2-o'clock sun." That is the side of your tree that suffers the worst from the heat. For additional protection I leave a

shade-board against the westerly side of the hive. I have not lost a colony from the heat for years, notwithstanding the mercury frequently goes to 108° or more in the shade.

#### SOME OF THE MANY HONEY-PLANTS.

In January, February, and part of March my bees visit manzanita and willow, gathering pollen and honey enough to carry on brood-rearing at a lively rate. March furnishes buckhorn and alder, the alder lasting into April, when the wild plum and the spring flowers take up the burden and bring us to the point where a surplus is to be expected.

In May and June Yerba Santa and ball-sage are the principal sources, and in July and August white sage and wild buckwheat. I have seen some fruit-bloom and alfalfa available during the season. The buckwheat flow ends the surplus season.

September, October and November are filled out by the fall flowers, the principal of which is a species of broom, bearing a profusion of small yellow blossoms, yielding a fair quantity of a rich golden-yellow honey, upon which the bees fill up their hives for winter, which really only lasts a month.

Locations vary, but, in my judgment, unless you have about the equivalent of the foregoing, your honey-yield will suffer. I have a water-ditch by the side of the apiary, and in season, I turn a stream out over a bed of sand and gravel for a "watering-trough" for the bees.

#### APIARIAN IMPLEMENTS AND CONVENiences.

I use what is called the Ventura-Standard hive, 10 frames in the lower and 9 in the upper story. The frames measure 8x16½ inches inside the wood. Sometimes, when I am crowded, I pile them up three, and even four, stories high. This only occurs when I get behind with my extracting. Usually, I extract from each hive every seven or eight days during the season.

The extracting-house is made principally of common wire-cloth, with a good shake roof over it, and is furnished inside with extractors, oil-stove, uncapping-can, honey-tanks, etc.

I ripen my honey in large tanks from four to six days before I case it up for market. I use new cans and cases, taking care to have everything perfectly clean and neat during the whole operation. I close the cans tightly, and keep them so, and have never had any honey "candy."

I handle my bees and hives just as little as I possibly can, never taking two steps where one will answer the purpose. I sell my honey as soon as I get it ready for market, and save insurance, warehouse charges and other expenses.

#### THE ROAD TO SUCCESS.

I am convinced that the road to success lies along the line of cheapened production. The field of the specialist is being narrowed year by year, and he can no longer hope to secure the phenomenal yields of the past. You, of this valley, may not find it profitable to engage largely in apiculture, but when your vast underground resources are tapped; when the life-giving streams from the encircling hills are conducted upon your fields, and Alfalfa—that prince of forage-plants—spreads his mantle of green over the naked breast of Mother Earth; when around each cottage home there thrives the apple, the peach, the almond—all manner of fruits and flowers—they all grow here—then I hope to see beside each garden-wall a few thriving colonies of bees.

Since modern science has done so much to simplify the care and management of bees, there is no reason why every family living as you do, in the country, should not keep a few colonies for its own use. With the movable frames now in use, and the knowledge that bees can be subdued by smoke, they may be handled by the most timid. The women and children can take care of a few colonies at the cost of no more labor and trouble than would be given a flock of hens.

#### BEES AND FRUIT AGAIN.

It has been contended that bees destroy fruit. This is certainly a mistake. Wasps and hornets—which secrete no wax, are furnished with strong, saw-like jaws, for cutting the woody fibre with which they build their comb—can, and do, penetrate the skins of the toughest fruits. On the other hand, the jaws of the bee are adapted chiefly to the manipulation of wax—are not serrated as are those of the hornet, but smooth; are so feeble that they cannot puncture the skin of the tenderest grape. This has been proven by repeated experiment.

If the skin of the fruit is once broken, however, the bee is not slow to take advantage of the circumstance, and will at once proceed to collect and store the juices, and in the case of grapes, at least, to the detriment of both bees and bee-keeper.

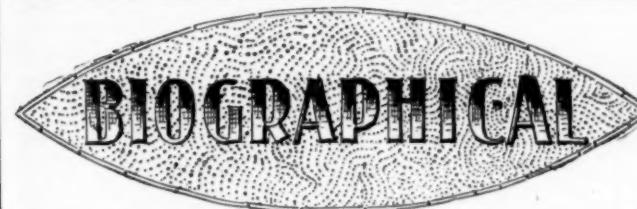
#### REQUIREMENTS OF SUCCESS.

In apiculture, as in all other lines of endeavor, only the careful and practical may hope to succeed. Experience is an important qualification for the successful running of any business, and apiculture is no exception to the rule, yet men who have not had practice, and cannot get it, are much better equipped for the work, provided they have some knowledge of the bee, its habits and management. This knowledge is not only valuable to the beginner, or those just about entering upon the business, but it is also of great importance to the regular, old-time bee-keeper whose success would have been much greater if he had had a knowledge of apiculture commensurate with his opportunities. *Theory leads practice to greater results.* This knowledge may be obtained from any of the standard books published upon the subject. Of these there are several that can be recommended: The "A B C of Bee-Culture," by A. I. Root; "Langstroth on the Honey-Bee"—universally regarded as the classic; and the "Bee-Keepers' Guide," by Prof. A. J. Cook, are the best. You make no mistake in procuring either of these.

You want also, one or more of the journals devoted to bee-culture. There are several—all good—and it is difficult to choose between them, but if you can take but one, I would advise the American Bee Journal. Then, study the book, and the journal, use your eyes, and your reasoning powers. No man can be an earnest student of the bee and its ways without being made better physically, in morals, and in intellect.

Do not attempt to keep too many colonies at the first. Start with a few—they will increase with good management quite as fast as you advance in knowledge. Give them good care. Be alive, wide awake, sober, industrious, and you will surely prosper.

Lang, Calif.



#### MR. EDWIN BEVINS.

The subject of this week's biography has kindly written it himself, so we give it in his own words:

The events of my life are few and hardly worth the telling. I was born Aug. 30, 1831, in Hague, Warren Co., N. Y., where I spent the first 22 years of my life. Farming and lumbering, and growing men and women to people the Mississippi Valley were almost the only occupations of the inhabitants of this region at that early day. My father was a farmer and lumberman. My memory goes back to the time when bear were killed in our neighbors' cornfields, and deer were chased along the mountain sides by the hounds, and killed by the hunters watching on the shore of the lake. Here, too, I fished and hunted, and drank fire-water and begged tobacco from a lone Indian—Jonathan Paul—"The Last of the Mohegans."

My mother died when I was a little more than four years old, and soon after I went to live with my grandparents, who resided not far from my father's. My father married again, and soon after sold out and moved to another county, and I saw and knew but little of him and his family for many years. In my boyhood I assisted my grandfather what I could on his farm, and attended the district school summers and winters until he died. I learned to read at a very early age, indeed, I have no recollection of the time when I could not read. I read, or rather devoured, every book that I could lay my hands on. As my grandfather was school district librarian most of the time, I had no lack of books to read. But I read indiscriminately, and with no particular end in view, and no one gave me any guidance or direction. Books of history, biography, poetry and fiction gave me the most pleasure, and my dream at this time was of a college education and a literary career—things utterly beyond my means. Once, when in Schenectady, N. Y., I stood outside the walls of Union College, then presided over by Eliphalet Nott, and felt an almost irresistible impulse to go in and beg for something to do to pay my way while studying there; but I did not do it. Again, later, in Williamsport, Pa., I stood at the door of Dickinson

Seminary, only to be told by its principal—now Bishop Bowman, of the Methodist Episcopal church—that I had not money enough to justify me in attempting to study there. Something of bitterness comes into my heart even now when I think of the intense longing I had in my youth for a college education, and the desperate poverty that hindered me from getting it.

I earned my first money the winter after I was 18 years old, teaching school in an old log school-house for the munificent sum of \$11 per month, and board; and had to "board around."

After my grandfather's death I continued to live with my grandmother till her death, when I was 22 years old. Then, packing a sachel with some of my most cherished books, and a few articles of clothing, and with just about money enough in my pocket to pay my traveling expenses, I started for the pine forests of Pennsylvania, then giving employment to thousands of men. There I found employment on a big saw-mill, measuring and marking the lumber as it came from the saws. One winter I measured and marked the logs as they were piled in the forest. One winter I taught a term of school, and one winter I gave instruction to a big family of boys belonging to a man of German origin named Wolf. Some of the boys were a good deal bigger than I was, but they were good-natured and well-behaved "Wolves," and I got along without trouble.

Once when the sawmill ran out of logs, I spent a few weeks in the village of Jersey Shore, on the north bank of the Susquehanna, studying surveying with a man by the name of Parker, who had been instructor of mathematics at West Point. I mastered that branch of mathematics in a short time, but my health never permitted me to enter on the practice of surveying.

Leaving Pennsylvania in the fall of 1856, I took Horace Greeley's advice and went West. I had a sister living in Illinois, whom I had not seen for several years, and thither I directed my steps. Other relatives were living in Iowa, and there I taught a term of school the following winter. Returning to Illinois in the spring of 1857, I went to work with my brother-in-law on a rented farm. Our crops were good, but the financial panic of that year was on hand as soon as the crops were, and all my earnings in Pennsylvania were swept away.

The following winter I returned to the old home in New York, where my father then lived, he having bought it, with other lands, about the time my grandfather died. There I staid and helped him on the farm till the fall of 1865, when he sold out and moved to Carroll county, Ill.

In January, 1866, I was married to Julia M. Prentiss, of Windham, Vt., and we went immediately to keeping house on a farm near the scene of my former failure. After the birth of our first and only child—a daughter now married and living here—her health rapidly declined, and, although she lingered for several years, the demon of Consumption never relaxed his hold till his deadly work was done. She died in July, 1881. Subsequently I was married to one of her sisters, who had been with us for a long time. I continued my farming operations in Illinois until the spring of 1890, when, in the hope that my health would be benefited by the change, I sold out and moved to this place. The farm here has been cultivated and improved mainly by the aid of hired help. Here, on the high divide midway between the Missouri and Mississippi, in caring for hogs and horses and cattle by proxy, and giving a large share of my own time and attention to the care of bees, and in musing somewhat mournfully, perhaps, on what might have been, I shall probably pass the short remainder of my days. My pathway has not been along the sunny side of fate.

I had not been long settled here, when, one afternoon near sundown, I found a swarm of bees clustered on the limb of an apple-tree. It was hived in a box-hive, and it went to work and stored considerable honey. Then somebody stole it. Some bees in log-hives were bought, but I did not know very well what to do with them. I resolved that I would know what to do with bees. I got what I thought were the best books and papers on the subject, and read them with the same avidity that I had read everything else, at the same time working with the bees and making a good many mistakes. I have bought some bees every season since I have been here, but the seasons have been mostly poor ones, and I have not had much natural swarming until the past season, so that my apiary is not now very large. Last season, also, I had a fair crop of honey, put up in such a way that I was able to capture my home market, it being now all, or nearly all, disposed of at a fair price.

In the future management of my bees I shall keep two objects in view, viz.:

1st. To get the maximum amount of honey at the minimum expense of money, time and labor.

2nd. To determine what departure, or departures, if any, can be made from the 8-frame size of the Langstroth hive with advantage to the bee-keepers of this locality who work for the production of comb honey. In making these experiments I shall not change the length of the frame, but the departures will be in the depth of frames and the number of frames used. Notwithstanding all that has been said in favor of the 8-frame hive, I am not friendly to it, though I use it more largely than any other. If I am permitted to make any discoveries either to the advantage or disadvantage of bee-keepers, they will, with the editor's permission, hear of them in the American Bee Journal.

In conclusion I will say that nobody steals bees from me now, and that when another stray swarm of bees alights in one of my apple-trees, I think I shall know how to care for it.

Leon, Iowa.

EDWIN BEVINS.

## CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS

### Report of the Illinois State Convention Held at Chicago, Jan. 9 and 10, 1896.

REPORTED BY ERNEST H. ROOT.

(Continued from page 70.)

#### CRIMSON CLOVER AND BUCKWHEAT.

President—We do not know very much about crimson clover; but what we do know we might as well air here. I sowed some in the spring, and it came up fairly well, but I did not see a great many bees on it; but freezing weather came on, and I had a nice patch of it.

Mr. Schrier—I sowed 10 acres along with timothy, and it seemed to do well.

Mr. Baldridge—I sowed a small lot in 1894, and bees worked on it very nicely. The seed dropped off, and it reseeded itself as nicely as at first. I have great faith in the plant. I would mix it with Alsike or other clover. If it should fail, then we would not lose the other crop.

Mr. Thompson—Mr. Baldridge's experience is the same as mine.

Mr. Draper—I should not think it would do very well with red clover, because the latter is biennial, and crimson clover is an annual.

Mr. Baldridge—The seed is very cheap, and there is not very much to lose, even if it should fall when it is sown with other clover.

Mr. Stewart—How tall does it grow?

Mr. Schrier—It is short.

Mr. Baldridge—It grows about a foot high, and very well with red clover, because it protects it. Crimson clover is not hardy.

President—What have we to say about buckwheat?

Mr. Stewart—I should like to know how Japanese buckwheat compares with others.

President—It yields a larger grain, more of it, and seems to have all the advantages of the other buckwheat.

Mr. Schrier—It ripens earlier.

Mr. Draper—How long does it continue in blossom?

President—About the same as the other.

#### THE BEE-PAPERS AND BEE-PASTURAGE.

Question—"What can the bee-papers do in the line of increasing artificial bee-pasturage?"

President—Just what we have been doing here to-day—gathering together in convention, and then spreading the knowledge here gained in the agricultural papers. We should emphasize to the farmers the value of the honey-plants only as forage plants. Perhaps it is better to say little or nothing about their being valuable for honey.

Mr. Stewart—What can be sown on waste land that farmers will not object to? Sweet clover won't do, because farmers call it a "noxious weed."

President—Farmers will object to every plant that you try to push, if they think your bees get honey from it.

Mr. Baldridge—Alsike clover will be a good plant to push. I would scatter it along the roadsides.

President—I would try to educate the farmers that sweet clover is not a noxious weed.

Mr. Draper—Mr. Quinby recommended catnip 25 years ago. Some years ago I sowed considerable of it, and have lots of it growing every year, and bees work on it well.

#### REMOVING BEES FROM THE WINTER REPOSITORY.

Question—"When is the best time in the spring to remove bees from the winter repository?"

Mr. Thompson—Localities differ. Bee-keepers must be guided by the season. We, on the Fox river, put them out as early as possible. A little frost after they are out will not hurt them any after they have had a good flight.

Mr. Baldridge—I put my bees in late, and bring them out early, and give them a good flight. I believe I secure young bees, brood and swarms earlier by so doing.

Mr. Wheeler—I get brood in the cellar, and keep my bees in as long as I can keep them quiet.

President—Some of you feel sure that there is advantage in taking bees out early. Others think bees would be better off as long as they can be kept quiet in the cellar. Those who advocate out early seem to lay great stress on the flight. I am going to try a few next spring, and compare them with those taken out late.

Mr. Finch—Bees kept in the cellar late become uneasy. If they get out, the flight quiets them, and then they keep quiet, even if they go out-doors.

President—I keep bees quiet by opening the cellar-doors at night. If it is cold, I start a fire and thus start the circulation of air. Either way will quiet the bees.

The convention then adjourned to meet at 1:30 p.m.

#### First Day—Afternoon Session.

##### HONEY ADULTERATION.

Question—"How can we stop adulterating honey?"

Pres. Miller—Why, just stop.

Mr. Finch—if you stop, it does not stop any one else. In central Illinois we find honey put up in glass jars. These jars hold a pound of some sort of mixture containing a little comb. The storekeeper pays 6½ cents per jar, and retails it for 10 cents. It does not taste like honey. If a suitable law can be drafted, I feel pretty sure it can be passed. The honey that I just spoke of is labeled simply "Honey."

Mr. Wheeler—I can beat that story all to pieces. I know where those jars in boxes of two dozen have been bought for 90 cents, or a little less than 4 cents each, you see.

President—It was wrong to overcharge [laughter]. But, Mr. Finch, can you prove that what you speak of was not honey? You propose a law against selling such stuff; but how are you going to prove it is not pure?

Mr. Finch—By analysis, and by tasting; besides, pure honey cannot be put up at that price.

Mr. York—In a walk of five minutes, I understand there are plenty places where they are adulterating.

Mr. Draper—I will tell you how you can knock 'em out. Raise honey nice enough, and you will run 'em out. The poor won't sell alongside of the good honey.

President—Mr. Finch has tried that, and failed. I don't mean he has adulterated, but has put a nice honey on the market. I should like to know whether there is a law already in this State against selling anything but pure honey. If there is not, ought we to have such a law?

Mr. York—There are lots of firms in this town, I understand, who are adulterating. A friend of mine investigated, and there is no doubt they can double the amount of honey (?) in that way.

Mr. Finch—Prof. Wiley's report shows that honey is adulterated.

A Member—But how do we know that this analysis was correct?

E. R. Root—You will remember that, some time ago, Prof. Cook, for the purpose of testing Prof. Wiley's skill, sent him various samples of honey. Some were adulterated 50 per cent., some 25, some 10, and still others were not adulterated at all, but a queer, twangy kind of pure honey. Prof. Wiley successfully identified each sample, and told the amount of adulteration in each kind by analysis; and the pure honeys were pronounced pure by him. As he had no knowledge in the first place of what these samples were, they being submitted to him by number, he had to rely solely on his skill and that of his associates. Well, then, if he had skill enough to name accurately each sample, and its amount of adulteration, we can assume that he is probably correct in his

analysis of the samples found in the open market, to which Mr. Finch refers.

A motion was made by Mr. York, to the effect that the Executive Committee be instructed to draft a suitable law to present at the next session of the Illinois legislature. Carried.

#### SWARMING IN SMALL AND IN LARGE HIVES.

Question—"Do bees swarm more in small than in large hives, generally?"

The President called for an expression. The general consensus of opinion seemed to be that the small hives would give more swarms. A few thought there would be no difference.

Mr. Draper—if you want to force bees to swarm, keep ventilation away; but if you don't want them to swarm, just give them plenty of ventilation.

Mr. Lyman—Colonies in large hives will swarm later, and those in small ones earlier.

Mr. Stewart—I practiced ventilation as suggested by Mr. Draper. It did not seem to make a particle of difference. They swarmed just the same.

Mr. Finch—I do not believe very much in ventilation to prevent swarming. I had a hive once that was warped so badly that it was open all around. They wintered well, and swarmed when the rest did. I do not know why I left them in that way.

Mr. Draper—Mr. Hutchinson claims that replacing queens every season will stop swarming. Regarding Mr. Finch's hive, open all round, perhaps it was a small one, and the bees just had to swarm. In running for extracted honey we use the large Quinby hives, and, besides that, give them a large amount of empty combs above. I keep no queens over two years old. Taking all these things into consideration, I manage to keep swarming down.

Mr. Stewart—The size of entrance cuts quite a figure in the prevention of swarming.

President—Heat does have something to do with it. I do know when that window is open it is cooler. [It was very warm in the room.]

Mr. Stewart—I tested 75 hives, raising them up on four bricks, and it made no difference with swarming.

Mr. Draper—I think you did not raise the hives soon enough.

Mr. Stewart—That was not the fact. They were raised before honey came in.

#### PREVENTION OF SWARMING.

Question—"Is there any other means of preventing swarming, other than to raise the hive from the bottom?"

Mr. Thompson—Keep the honey away from them, and they will not swarm.

Mr. Baldridge—Go into a poor region where there is no honey, and they won't swarm.

[Continued next week.]

#### From the Oxford Bee-Keepers' Meeting.

Having some time to spare, the question-box was opened with: Will brood-combs color honey stored in them? If so, how shall we prevent bees storing temporarily in the brood-nest?

The idea intended by the question was that when a flow suddenly begins, bees fill the spare room in the brood-nest and then remove it to the super. Will this honey be dark? Everyone had noticed that brood-combs soaked in water would color it, and that honey, though coming from clover and basswood, if stored first in the brood-nest and then removed to the super, would be dark. To prevent the bees storing first in the brood-nest, it was necessary to have the super filled with clean combs before a flow from white clover, or any white honey-flow, began.

In extracting, what method do you follow in removing the combs? The best method was to remove half the combs at a time from the super, put the remaining half in the center and fill the outsides with empty combs.

Would you have the same number of combs in the extracting-super as in the brood-nest? S. T. Pettit preferred the same number; others preferred one comb less in the super.

In lifting combs from the super would you commence at once to brush off the bees? The general experience was that combs should remain a half minute or so. The bees are not so apt to resent the brushing as when done at once in lifting from the hive.—Canadian Bee Journal.

Every Present Subscriber of the Bee Journal should be an agent for it, and get all others possible to subscribe for it.

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**The Bee-Keepers' Union Election** of officers for 1896 resulted as follows:

President—Hon. R. L. Taylor. Vice-Presidents—Prof. A. J. Cook, G. M. Doolittle, Dr. C. C. Miller, Hon. Eugene Secor, and A. I. Root. General Manager, Secretary and Treasurer—Thomas G. Newman.

On page 110 of this number will be found the vote in detail. All the officers were re-elected, which is just as it should be whenever any set of officers give the universal satisfaction that these Bee-Keepers' Union officers have given. The Union has lost none of its old-time vigor and usefulness, and no doubt will continue to wield a beneficent influence upon the bee-keeping industry. But it should have thousands of members instead of hundreds. Why not send \$1.00 to the General Manager now, if you are not already a member? You owe it to yourself and to the pursuit to be a member of the National Bee-Keepers' Union.

**Langstroth Monument Fund.**—A number of our readers have suggested the beginning of a fund for the purchase and erection of a monument over the place where lies all that was mortal of our beloved Father Langstroth. We are very willing to receive subscriptions for this commendable purpose, and on page 107 of this number we give a list as a starter.

It is thought best by some to have the contributions somewhat small in the individual amounts, as then a larger number of bee-keepers would feel that they could help in the matter. But, of course, none need feel at all limited if they desire to give in excess of others.

We shall be pleased to take care of whatever money is sent to us for this purpose, and will, at the right time, turn it over to the proper committee who will have in charge the erection of the monument. Gleanings has already announced itself as ready to receive contributions, and we presume the other bee-papers will also. Let there be a general feeling of willingness to take advantage of this last opportunity offered to show our esteem for our loved Langstroth, who in his great invention of a bee-hive bestowed upon the bee-keeping world such a substantial and permanent blessing.

**The Canadian Pure-Honey Bill.**—Mr. Wm. McEvoy, Foul Brood Inspector of the Province of Ontario, wrote us as follows concerning this Bill, on Feb. 8:

Our Pure-Honey Bill has passed its second reading in the House of Commons at Ottawa, Canada, and as the third reading is only a matter of form, our Pure-Honey Bill is just as good as passed. I feel so rejoiced over our great victory in getting our Pure-Honey

Bill passed, that I feel just like "hollerin'." We went in to win, and did our work as if our life depended upon it.

I enclose a copy of the Bill, which had to go before a Committee in Parliament after it passed the second reading, and it went through their hands day before yesterday, and is not changed any worth noticing. This is a good Act, and when all of our honey is sold with plenty of copies of this Act, to all the dealers in Canada and foreign lands, won't it give the public more confidence, and increase pure honey sales more than anything else on earth could do? Hurrah for our laws!

Wm. McEvoy.

The Pure-Honey Bill referred to by Mr. McEvoy in the foregoing, reads thus:

BILL NO. 10.

An Act further to amend the Act respecting the Adulteration of Food, Drugs, and Agricultural Fertilizers.

Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and House of Commons of Canada, enacts as follows:

1. No imitation of honey, or "sugar-honey" so-called, or other substitute for honey manufactured or produced from cane sugar, or from any other substances other than those which bees gather from natural sources, shall be manufactured or produced or offered for sale in Canada, or sold therein; and every person who contravenes the provisions of this Act in any manner shall, on summary conviction, incur a penalty not exceeding four hundred dollars, and not less than one hundred dollars, and in default of payment shall be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding twelve months, and not less than three months: Provided that this Act shall not be interpreted or construed to prevent the giving of sugar in any form to the bees, to be consumed by them as food.

2. Section six to thirty, both inclusive, of *The Adulteration Act* shall, so far as they are applicable, be held to apply to this Act in the same way as if the adulteration of honey were especially mentioned therein.

**Mr. Benton's Book** may yet be issued in sufficient quantity to accommodate all who desire it. The original 1,000 copies, we understand, did not last long, and so a joint resolution has been introduced by Representative Wadsworth, of New York, to authorize the printing of 20,000 more copies. Hon. Geo. E. Hilton thinks there should be 100,000 copies of it printed, if all among the estimated 300,000 bee-keepers who want it are to be supplied. Mr. Hilton suggests that we advise all our readers to write their senators and representatives to not only support the joint resolution, but ask that it be amended so that 100,000 copies may be published.

We hope next week to give a review of Mr. Benton's book, when bee-keepers will be able to see just what it is. From a very hasty glance at it, we should say it is about the finest small work on bee-keeping that has been published in this country. Surely the many illustrations are exceedingly fine.

**Sweet Clover Honey.**—There are quite a number of bee-keepers, we find, who are not familiar with honey gathered from sweet clover. They no doubt would pay more attention to sowing sweet clover seed if they knew what an excellent honey the plant produces. An opportunity was given us lately to buy some of as nearly pure sweet clover extracted honey as we believe can be produced, and in order that all who wish may have a sample, we will mail it for 12 cents in stamps. We have a few 60-lb. cans of it, and will ship one can for \$5.00, on board cars here. We consider it equal to anything we ever tasted in the line of honey. Send for a sample, and see what you think of it.

**Advertisements with the Reading - Matter.**—Among those who recently, upon request, made suggestions in the line of improving the Bee Journal, were one or two who said they preferred to have the advertisements separate. But one of those who answer questions in the "Question-Box," has this to say about it:

**MR. EDITOR:**—If I could have a bee-journal just to suit me, it would not have an advertisement in it. Neither would it have a word in it about anything except bees and bee-keeping, and nothing about them except what applies to latitude 42 degrees north. Nothing about extracted honey, only comb honey. Every page and every line would be filled with matter that would be helpful to me in my work, and every number would be entirely made up of matter I had never before heard of. But not being quite a fool, I would not expect to get such a paper unless I expected to pay something more than a dollar a year for it. And every man who puts an advertisement in my paper is helping me to pay for it. If there are advertisements galore, the money that comes from them will help the publishers to pay for more pictures, more everything that makes a good bee-paper. So when I see plenty of advertisements in a paper, instead of feeling that I am cheated by that, I know that it means the publishers can do better work for it, and if they are wise enough I know they will. Advertisers will pay more money for having their advertisements on the same pages with the reading-matter, and although I don't like the looks of it

quite so well, I prefer, on the whole, to have it so, for it means I can have that much more for my money.

Come to think of it, quality and quantity of contents are more than looks, and if there are advertisements on every page it won't take more than 30 seconds longer to leaf over the pages. So, Messrs. Publishers, try to have half of every page filled with advertisements, and then put in some more pages. I still think I would like to take a paper such as I first described, and if you can get up one at \$50 a year, please put me down as a subscriber. Or how much would it cost?

Well, sir, you have succeeded in putting the case pretty well. If we were to omit all advertisements from the Bee Journal, every subscriber would have to pay at least \$2.00 a year instead of \$1.00, so by having advertisements there is quite a saving to bee-keepers. Besides, the great majority want to know where they can buy queens, bee-supplies, etc., and doubtless wouldn't have a bee-paper without any advertisements in it.

As you say, it is true that advertisers prefer their notices put with the reading-matter, and as it is no inconvenience at all to the reader to have it so, there is no good reason why the advertiser shouldn't be gratified in his wish. Each advertiser pays in any paper just for say an inch space one time, as much, or more, than a subscriber pays for a whole year's subscription; and as there are so few subscribers who are so whimsical as to care anything about the matter anyway, it is better to strive to please the advertiser in this case, particularly as there is no sacrifice of principle.

But if only one or two subscribers insist on having no advertisements in their copies, we couldn't accommodate them short of \$50 a week each. Very few could afford that at present prices of honey, we think!

**Questions and Answers**

CONDUCTED BY  
DR. C. C. MILLER, MARENGO, ILL.

[Questions may be mailed to the Bee Journal, or to Dr. Miller direct.]

#### May Be Short of Stores.

My bees are in the cellar, and in a condition generally agreed upon as the best, except a possibility that some may be short of stores, as I was unable, at the right time, to attend to them closely in that particular. Would it be safe and better to leave them alone until they fail to respond as promptly as usual to a tap on the hive? or should they be examined? (They are in frame hives.) The point is, what would you do?

Sound Beach, Conn., Jan. 20. E. M.

ANSWER.—If I thought only a very small portion were in danger of being short of stores, I think I'd risk their starving rather than to risk hurting all the rest by opening them up, and I don't think I'd want to be tapping them every day. If, on the other hand, I thought a sufficient number were in danger of starving to make it a serious matter, I'd try to find out for certain by weighing or looking into the hives, and then I'd give enough to all that were at all doubtful, using combs of honey or else candy.

#### Putting Bees Out of the Cellar.

1. Where one has from 125 to 200 colonies of bees in the cellar to be put out in the spring, what kind of weather should it be when they are put out?
2. About what should the thermometer register?
3. Should it be in the morning, at noon, or evening?
4. Should they be put out all at one time, or at intervals?
5. If at intervals, about how much time should elapse, and how many should be put out in each lot?
6. When put out, should one begin at one side of the yard and fill each row of stands until they are all out, or fill and then skip alternately, and thus repeat until all is full?
7. I have had hives crowded and over-run with bees in a few hours after they had been put out, even so they would cluster on the outside of the hive in large numbers; appar-

ently they came from several hives, as I could not detect the loss from any one, or the direction they came from. What was the cause?

8. How can it be prevented? When it happens, what is the best thing to do?

NORTHERN NEW YORK.

ANSWERS.—1. A still day, with bright sunshine.

2. Fifty degrees or more; but if you're sure of your day, and handle the bees quietly, you can commence in the morning early at 40° if you feel sure it will go up to 50° or 60°.

3. I prefer getting them out as early in the day as possible. However, if you could feel sure of a warm, nice day following, it would do to carry out in the evening.

4. Either way will do, but I like full as well to put them all out at once.

5. The intervals I have used have been such as to suit my own convenience. If I commence one morning, and after getting out a few it turns cloudy or cool, I stop and make an interval till the weather suits, whether it be the next day or the next week.

6. I think I have read of the skipping plan, but I never knew any harm to come from filling the rows straight along.

7. I've had something of the same kind, and it seems to be something like swarming out.

8. About all I've done has been to look on and wish they wouldn't act so. If some hives get more than their share of bees, I don't know that it does a great deal of harm. If so many should be in one hive that at night they would not all crowd in, I think I would take the bees that hang out in the evening and give them to some colony that needed more. Just after taking out of the cellar there isn't much trouble about putting bees from one hive into another.

#### Double vs. Single Walls for Dryness.

Will a double-walled hive, made of  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch lumber with a  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch dead-air space between the inner and outer wall, keep bees drier and better than a single-walled hive? We are not troubled with cold here, but rain. I do my own hive-making, and lumber is no object.

J. O. W.

Cowlitz, Wash.

ANSWER.—I doubt it. After getting wet, the double wall would be slower in drying out. With lumber cheap, the best thing might be to have a good roof large enough to cover all the hives.

#### Probably Robbing.

What makes my bees fight at this season of the year, when we have a warm day so that they can fly? They are fighting all the time. Are they robbing? I do not have time to look after them as I ought to.

J. W. W.

Sallisaw, Ind. Ter., Jan. 6.

ANSWER.—Without being on the ground, it isn't easy to say why they are fighting, but very likely it is as you suspect, simply that they are trying to rob. If you find the fighting mainly at one hive, throw some loose hay or straw at the entrance. That will allow passage for the bees that belong to the hive, but robbers are a little shy of going into a place where they can't make an easy and prompt retreat.

#### The Use of the Bee-Escape.

Man—especially the bee-man—never is, but always to be, blessed; and I'm blessed if Simmins, in the new edition of his "Modern Bee-Farm," hasn't been loudly decrying the use of bee-escapes—that perfect invention that was going to save us all so much stinging, anxiety, blasphemy and work, and smooth our way to fortune. Back again to the primitive smoke and brush! Verily, we are progressing backwards! Simmins says: "As soon as bees are frightened they will commence to tear open the beautifully capped cells. This is one of the most forcible arguments that can be used in condemnation of the super-clearers, for the bees, once frightened by the lifting of the super, will not hesitate to break countless pin-holes in the beautiful cappings." And on page 129 he alludes to bee-escapes as "an old and discarded fad." Does your experience permit of your endorsing these statements?

S. A. D.

ANSWER.—It may be all right to call bee-escapes a fad, but I hardly see how any one can call them "old," and surely they are not "discarded" on this side the water. If a single bee-keeper that has been favorable to them has given up their

use, I don't remember to have seen it. I never before saw it charged against bee-escapes that it caused the bees to tear holes in the sections. Indeed, that is one of the strong points claimed for them, that the bees, being less frightened than by any other way, will not tear holes. To give a direct answer to your question, my own experience makes me believe that in no way other than by bee-escapes can I get bees out of sections with less tearing. At the same time I must say that I generally get them out by older methods without any tearing, and as it takes longer time with the escapes, I use them much less than many others. But at times I value some sort of escape highly.

#### Making Sugar Candy for Feeding.

I wish you would tell how to make sugar candy from granulated sugar and water; how to get it hard, and in what form you make it. If in a pan (to form it) will it not stick to the pan, and be hard to get it out? G. D.

ANSWER.—To tell the truth, I don't make it at all. I prefer to feed the bees plenty of sugar and water—providing they need feeding, or will need feeding—early enough so there will be no danger of scarcity through the winter. But if I had bees that were in danger of starving before spring, and had no combs of honey to give them, I should prepare candy for them after the instructions given in Root's "A B C of Bee-Culture." Take good, thick honey of the very best quality you can get, and warm it till it gets very thin. Then stir in pulverized sugar as long as it will take up the sugar. When it won't take up any more sugar, take it out of the dish and knead it with the hands, adding what more sugar it will take, making it a stiff dough. Then lay cakes an inch thick, over the frames.

If, however, you have no extracted honey, you may be obliged to make the hard candy out of sugar alone. Sprinkle granulated sugar into a dish on the stove containing hot or boiling water. Use a little more than twice as much sugar as water. Let it cook until a little of it dropped into cold water becomes hard. Then pour it into shallow dishes previously greased. If about an inch thick it will be in good shape to lay over the frames. It will be easier to get it out of the pan or dish before it gets entirely cold.

#### Preparing Bees for Moving.

1. How should bees be fixed for a trip of 300 or 400 miles, by railroad? They are in frame hives.

2. Where can I buy sweet clover seed, and what would probably be the cost per pound. S. W. S.

Dumont, Iowa.

ANSWERS.—1. First of all look out that they have plenty of air. Just how that can best be given depends upon the kind of hive. With almost any hive, however, you can have a frame covered with wire-cloth to take the place of the cover. If the hive has loose-hanging frames, they should be made fast in some way. One way is to drive nails through the ends of the top-bars into the rabbet, not driving them in so deep but that they can easily be drawn out by a claw-hammer. Or you can make sticks about as long as the depth of the frames, pushing them down between the frames at each end. At the top end of each of these sticks drive through an inch or an inch and a half wire-nail so the stick can't fall down between the frames. A sponge with water laid on top of the frames will be a good thing, especially if the weather is hot. Place the hives in the car with the frames running parallel with the railroad track, so they will the better stand the bumping of the cars. Better have the hives in some way fastened in their place so they won't be shot all over the car every time it is bumped.

2. I never knew so much call for sweet clover seed as at the present time. Last year the home supply gave out and there was none to be had except what was imported. That would probably have the effect of stimulating the home production so that there will likely be plenty of it to be had this year. Watch the advertising columns, and you will see who offers it.

**The McEvoy Foul Brood Treatment** is given in Dr. Howard's pamphlet on "Foul Brood; Its Natural History and Rational Treatment." It is the latest publication on the subject, and should be in the hands of every bee-keeper. Price, 25 cents; or clubbed with the Bee Journal for one year—both for \$1.10.



#### How Many Queens from a Nucleus?

My average number from a nucleus, during the past ten years, has been about two a month. Some nuclei do better, others not as well, so that it is always well to calculate on having a few more nuclei than you really expect you will need to fill all orders; and even then, if your case proves anything like mine, you will be obliged to return money for some un-filled orders at the end of the season.—G. M. DOOLITTLE, in Gleanings.

#### Big Hives and Swarming.

Dr. Miller says in Gleanings: "Nearly every year, for several years, I have had in each apiary one or two colonies as a sort of reservoir, in which were put frames of brood or honey to be taken care of, and to be drawn upon whenever needed. These 'piles,' as we called them, would run up three and four stories high, and it always seemed to me that they stored more honey in proportion to the number of bees than other colonies; and like your 'hummers,' not one of the 'piles' ever offered to swarm. But then, one reason for their not swarming may have been that they were weak colonies at the beginning of the harvest—too weak to take sections—and their growing strong was a work of degrees.

"Against the view that room alone prevented swarming, stands the fact that, in the past season, preparations for swarming were made in colonies having two stories, one of the stories being very little occupied, and no excluder between."

#### Foul Brood.

I have boiled the honey from diseased colonies and added one-half ounce salicil and about 60 pounds of honey, and fed the bees, with no bad result. That a spore of any bacilli can stand boiling for hours with impunity, as some Americans say, is a thing I cannot accept. A bullock would not only be dead, but tender at the same time, but a spore shall come to life again!—W. ABRAM, in Australian Bee-Bulletin.

#### House-Apiaries.

I have had the pleasure of handling bees in a house- apiary for the past six years, and I indorse all that has been said in favor of them, and will add that this is certainly the way to care for bees in order to save labor, which, you will agree, is the greatest item of expense in the production of honey.

To be sure, the common out-door hive must be used, resting on shelves; the building painted in colors, large openings not less than 4x8 inches, cut in various forms. These are closed in the fall with a slide or board on the inside, with small auger-hole, or slat, to admit entrance to hives. In settled winter weather a board closes all up tight on the outside. For admitting light, one opening with shutter is sufficient for every two hives. Don't make the building too large, i. e., to contain any more cubic feet of space than is necessary for convenience in handling, on account of being much better for wintering if in close quarters.

A raised earth floor will keep dry, and does not sound, or disturb bees, when walking, or working with them.—E. E. SLINGERLAND, in Gleanings.

#### Burning or Water-Soaking Wax.

While it is true you can burn wax with direct steam, or live steam, you can hardly do so by sending that steam into water and transmitting the heat indirectly from the water to the wax. Wax will never burn when over water, because it can never get hotter than the boiling-point. The trouble with your wax is probably not burning, as you suppose, but water-soaking the wax. While in this condition it is quite spongy, and appears as if it had been ground up into meal. When a handful of it is grabbed up it can't be pressed together, and the water can be squeezed out as from a sponge. The only way of restoring such wax is to subject it to a dry heat, where the water can pass off. The solar wax-extractors are the best means of rendering such wax back to its cake form. Trays of such wax placed in the stove oven will also dry it out.—Gleanings.



## Largest Factory in the West COMPLETE STOCK. Good Supplies and Low Prices Our Motto.

**READ THIS**—Mr. Keyes says: The 100 pounds of Extra-Thin Foundation you sent us is superior to anything he ever saw; and I think the same. R. L. TUCKER, Wewahitchka, Fla.

Dear Sirs:—The Sections came duly to hand. Indeed, they are very nice. Yes, sir; they are as good as the best.

CHARLES H. THIES, Steeleville, Illinois.

Leahy Mfg. Co.:—I have received the bill of goods. I must say they are the choicest lot of Hive-Stuff I have ever received from any place. I admire the smoothness of your work, and your close selection of lumber. Yours very truly, O. K. OLSTEAD, Orleans, Nebr.

Dear Sirs:—The Sections arrived in due time, and are all O. K. so far as examined. They are simply perfection. I can't see how you can furnish such goods at such low prices. I hope you may live long and do well. Yours respectfully, Z. S. WEAVER, Courtney, Tex.

Gentleman:—I received the "Higginsville Smoker" all O. K. It's a dandy; please find enclosed stamps for another.

Yours truly, OTTO ENDERS, Oswegatchie, N. Y.

Gentlemen:—I have bought Supplies from nearly all the large manufacturers by the car-load, and I must say yours are as good as the best. Indeed, in many lines they are the best. It is a pleasure to handle them.

E. T. FLANAGAN, Belleville, Illinois.

The above unsolicited testimonials are a fair sample of hundreds we receive.

Our prices are reasonable and the "Higginsville Goods" are the best.

The "Higginsville" Goods are for sale by the following parties:

Chas. H. Thies, Steeleville, Ill.

Henry L. Miller, Topeka, Kans.

J. W. Rouse & Co., Mexico, Mo.

E. T. Flanagan, Belleville, Ill.

E. A. Seely, Bloomer, Arkansas.

P. J. Thomas, Fredonia, Kans.

And by a number of others.

If you need a Carload of Supplies, or only a Bee-Smoker, write to us. Remember, we are here to serve you, and will, if you give us a chance. A Beautiful Catalogue Free.

Address, LEAHY MANUFACTURING CO., HIGGINSVILLE, MO.

49A Mention the American Bee Journal.

**There Is No Doubt About the MERIT OF DEHORNING** THE KEYSTONE KNIFE  
It cuts both ways, does not crush. One clip and the horns are off close. Write for circular. A. C. BROSIUS, Cochranville, Pa.

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### ONE MAN WITH THE UNION COMBINATION SAW

Can do the work of four men using hand tools, in Ripping, Cutting-off, Mitring, Rabbing, Grooving, Gaining, Dadoing, Edging-up, Jointing, Stuff, etc. Full Line of Foot and Hand Power Machinery. Sold on Trial. Catalogue Free.

SENECA FALLS MFG. CO.,  
46 Water St., SENECA FALLS, N. Y.  
1A1y Mention the American Bee Journal.

### GIVING AWAY HIVES.

On all orders received before Feb. 15th for \$20.00 or over, we will send a "Half-Joint Hive," complete, ready for a swarm.

Send for '96 Circular.

I. J. STRINGHAM,  
105 Park Place. NEW YORK, N. Y.  
Mention the American Bee Journal.

## CHEAP SECTIONS! CHEAP SECTIONS!

We have at this Branch among the Stock purchased of Thos. G. Newman the following stock of Sections—not of our manufacture—which we desire to close out to make room for our

### Superior Extra Polished Sections.

In order to close them out quickly we offer them for the next 60 days, or while they last, at these special prices:

#### White Sections, 4 1/4 x 4 1/4.

40,000 1 15-16	1,000 for \$1.75
50,000 1 1/2	2,000 for 3.00
80,000 7-to-ft.	5,000 for 7.00

With all orders for less than 5,000, add 25 cts. for carriage.

These Sections are of Wisconsin manufacture, and when made were doubtless considered as good as the best; but as compared with our Extra Polished Sections they are not up to the standard of to-day, but a decided bargain and should be closed out quickly at these very low prices. If you prefer a sample before ordering we will mail one for 5 cts. to cover postage.

The A. I. Root Co., 56 5th Ave., Chicago, Ill.

#### Cream Sections, 4 1/4 x 4 1/4.

8,500 1 15-16	1,000 for \$1.25
	2,000 for 2.00
	5,000 for 4.50

## The Langstroth Monument Fund.

### Contributors.

Geo. W. Brodbeck	\$1.00
Dr. C. C. Miller	.50
Geo. W. York	.50
Mattie C. Godfrey	.25
Total	\$2.25

## General Items.

### A Splendid Showing for 1895.

My report is 39 colonies in the spring of 1895, and 150 in the fall; 3,000 pounds of comb honey and 3,000 of extracted. That shows three swarms from each colony, and 150 pounds of honey per colony, spring count. That beats anything that ever struck this section, although Minnesota is a good State, and probably can furnish its share of bread and butter and honey.

Oaks, Minn., Jan. 4. M. S. SNOW.

### That Home Market for Honey.

I believe it of much importance for bee-keepers to create, supply, and keep supplied, a home market. It can be done, as I know by personal experience. I work, besides, under a great disadvantage, being very deaf. However, year by year, I extend my market, so that now I supply 60 or more stores with extracted honey in pint jars. I continue a steady and much interested reader of the American Bee Journal. It and Gleanings, make a powerful team.

Yours for first-class, ripe honey, sold in one's home market. ALFRED MOTTAS. Utica, Ill.

### The Non-Swarming-Bee Question.

I am not deeply interested in the non-swarming-bee question, save as one of prospective importance; I doubt my ability to throw any light upon it; and I feel that I am not really entitled to the last "say." Moreover, I shouldn't wonder if the readers thought the same, and were nearly ready to see this subject follow the queen-clipping matter off the stage. Therefore, I will make a few general statements based upon Mr. Lownes' article, on page 808 (1895), and then "abscind." I answer his remarks briefly, as follows:

Animal will is nothing but an expression through instinct of the needs of animal nature, which is no stronger, grade for grade, higher form compared with higher form, or lower with lower, than plant nature. You change the natural need or bent, and the "will changing" will take care of itself. The will of an insect to sip honey from a plant, and the will of a plant, as the "Venus' fly-trap," to clasp with its leaves and digest the insect alighting thereon, have a common origin.

"Bees do not swarm or hens sit for the love of their posterity," but Nature impels them to do so because the author of Nature has regard for their posterity. We cannot "make a cross between the honey-bee and the bumble-bee," but it is a fact of zoology, nevertheless, that just as widely different species of birds, mammals, etc., as of plants can be crossed, our control over one equaling that over the other.

No, I did not mean to say, or intimate, that artificial incubation has made hens non-sitters; but only that domestication, as all well know, has made all animals and plants more variable in all characteristics than they were before. For instance, man has bred into pigeons from one common stock anatomical differences that, found in Nature, would make not only different species but different genera. Mr. Lownes could never send me "into the jungle to get Leghorns;" for I would not expect to find any there. The various original species of jungle fowls alone are there by

Nature. I deny that non-sitting fowls are so through any wildness of disposition. I have found the non-sitting Houdans and Crevecoeurs to be tamer than even Brahmans and Cochins. They are the most familiarly tame of fowls; and the non-sitting Leghorns are no wilder than the sitting games. The sitting jungle-fowl is the wildest of all. Any breed of animals and any variety of plants, if left entirely alone, would soon revert, or lapse back, to the original form of its species. The non-sitting or non-swarming character would not be an exception.

As to the "Plymouth Rock hen, and getting fat on nothing," something can never be made from nothing. You can breed out all tendency to waste, and there it must stop.

As to "breeding our ears off entirely," it probably will never be tried. However, an extra toe was bred on each foot of the Dorkings, etc.

Having thus covered all the points advanced against me by Mr. Lownes, I retire from the arena, after making this statement of my position in brief:

1st. No reliable man will ever claim to have produced a strain of non-swarming bees without first testing them and finding them so; and,

2nd. If some one does claim to have produced a non-swarming strain, any one can say, "I don't believe it," but none can assert that it is not so until he has tried those bees and actually found that they do swarm.

3rd. And let any one keep trying to produce them who wants to do so.

Monterey, Calif. A. NORTON.

#### Results of the Past Season.

My last year's crop of honey amounted to 1,042 pounds, and it is almost all sold at home. I had only 54 colonies of bees, and they have plenty of winter stores besides.

H. K. GRESH.

Ridgeway, Pa., Jan. 13.

#### Bees Did Fairly Well.

My bees did fairly well last season, taking 2,000 pounds of mostly extracted honey from 40 colonies, spring count, and increased to 50, with plenty of stores for winter. Some colonies gathered over 100 pounds. Success to the Bee Journal.

GEO. W. WILSON.

Hylton, Tex., Jan. 18.

#### Another Honey-Buying Fraud.

On pages 817 and 818 is a letter from E. B. Huffman about marketing honey. After reading it I remarked that misery loves company. It is so near what I experienced myself that I concluded to tell the readers of the Bee Journal where my man is located—not in Chicago, but in Toronto, Ont.

In August, 1895, I received an order from C. A. Hirschfelder, of Rosedale, Toronto, for 300 pounds of honey, stating that he wanted it for a college there, and that he would send me a postoffice order for the amount on its receipt. But, as in the case of Mr.

Huffman, that postoffice order never came, and my attorneys report the man to be worthless. This man Hirschfelder has been an American Vice-Council in Toronto, but in the month of June last, he had to quit the office on account of his conduct.

So now, brother bee-keepers, in every land where the American Bee Journal is read, take notice, and be careful to whom you sell your hard-earned product; and when a man of the stamp of Dingsman or Hirschfelder calls on you in any way, just give them an introduction to your shoe-maker!

W. J. BROWN.

Chard, Ont., Canada.

#### The "Marriage" Forbidden.

As a member of the Bee-Keepers' Union I have a right to say a few words about its proposed marriage with the North American Bee-Keepers' Association. I was one of the earliest members of the Union, and have paid as much toward its bank account as any one. I look at it as I would look upon an old man who had spent his whole life in social pleasures, and in his dotage and poverty seeking the hand of a rich young woman, who had been prudent and economical, and was helpful to her family and friends. He says, "Marry me, and give me the disposition of your money, and we will have much pleasure in attending all the social parties in the country; and when your money is all gone, we will call on your friends for more, and if they do not hand it over promptly we will disinherit them."

Now, as one of the family of "the bride," I forbid the bans. I fear that the proposed marriage will impair the usefulness of the Bee-Keepers' Union. L. EASTWOOD.

Waterville, Ohio.

#### Two Good Years for Bees.

Seeing I am not a member of any bee-association, I would like to see a convention held somewhere close by, so that some of us northern bee-keepers could attend, and I must say that there are a good many bee-keepers springing up in the northern part of the State at present, and bees have done very well the last two years. Mine wintered without loss, but they did not swarm last summer. I had 4,800 pounds of comb honey from 35 colonies, and put them into winter quarters in good condition. The weather is very mild at present, with no snow. It is almost too warm for our bees. JOHN HOFFMAN.

Clintonville, Wis., Jan. 20.

#### Back With the Bees Again.

Possibly some of my old-time friends of the 70's and 80's, not having heard from me for several years, imagine I "crossed the river." I wish to assure them now that I am still in the land of the living.

In 1889, I received an appointment as United States gauger in the Internal Revenue service, at \$5.00 per day. This induced me to leave my home and my bees here, and move to Peoria, Ill., where I

## Got Something for Nothing!

Did You? Thousands of readers answering my ad. in the past received free by mail at a cost of 20 cents to me, a package of my discovery, VITAE ORE, and 90 per cent. have written to thank me and send cash order for more, declaring that it had done them more good than all doctors and man-made remedies they ever used. I scorn to take any one's money until convinced at my expense that V.-O. is the best thing in, on, or out of the earth for all who suffer from ills no doctor or drug will cure, such as general debility, feebleness from over-work, worries, cares, protracted sickness, old age, female complaints, all kidney and membranous ailments. It is the only natural, Nature's cure for human ills ever offered to man, and not by a quack doctor or methods peculiar thereto. If you have been bamboozled often, and grievously, by robbers in the medicine business, I am not responsible therefor, but am if V.-O. fails to give greater satisfaction than all else you ever tried. Send the addresses of six sick people and I will do the balance.

THEO. NOEL, Geologist, Tacoma Building, Chicago, Ill.

Mention the Bee Journal.

6A4t

**PEERLESS FEED GRINDERS.**  
Old Reliable Absolutely Guaranteed  
Will grind to any desired degree of fineness.  
Ear Corn, Oats, Etc., and do more of it than any mill on earth. Write at once for prices and agency. There is MONEY IN THEM. Quality Best and Prices Right.  
**JOLIET STROWBRIDGE CO.,** Joliet Ills., Farm Machinery, Carriages, Windmills, &c.

Mention the American Bee Journal. 34A26

**POULTRY**  
WHITE FACED BLACK SPANISH  
40 Standard Breeds Illustrated & fully described in my new Poultry Book. Reliable information for poultrymen & intending buyers. Good stock Ducks & Geese; also Shetland Ponies. Send 60c in stamp to  
**E. H. COOK, Box 27, Huntley, Ill.**

Mention the American Bee Journal. 4A13

## WANTED.

10,000 pounds of BEESWAX, for Cash. Address,  
**LEAHY MFG. CO.,** Higginsville, Mo.

## PATENT WIRED COMB FOUNDATION

Has No Sag in Brood-Frames

### Thin Flat-Bottom Foundation

 Has No Fishbone in the Surplus Honey. Being the cleanest is usually worked the quickest of any Foundation made. **J. VAN DEUSEN & SONS,** Sole Manufacturers, Sprout Brook Montgomery Co., N. Y.

**For Sale** —A Dozen Colonies of Italian and Carniolan Bees in 8-frame Langstroth-Simplicity hives. The Combs all built on full sheets of foundation, wired in, and straight as a board. Seven of the Queens are Imported, and all are of last year's rearing. Will be sold at \$5.50 per colony for Imported and \$4.50 for native. Bees are in fine condition with plenty of stores to carry them through. Address, **W. J. CULLINAN,** QUINCY, ILL.

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**J. FORNCROOK,**

WATERTOWN, Jeff. Co., Wis., Jan. 1st, 1896.  
Mention the American Bee Journal.

measured many thousands of barrels of spirits ferment, and determined the amount of tax due Uncle Sam. But, like all things earthly, my "good job" came to an end, and I am now back with the bees.

When I moved away I left a man in charge of my home and my bees, but he did not prove an eminent success. I find I have only 40 colonies now to begin next season's work with, and a chance, of course, of losing part of these between now and white clover bloom. I have always wintered my bees on the summer stands, in double-walled hives packed with sawdust and chaff, and my winter losses and spring dwindling have never been serious.

Of course, I do not claim to be up-to-date now in the bee-business, but I will fall in again, and endeavor to keep up with the procession.

My earnest wish now is that we may have an abundant crop of white clover next summer, with plenty of rain.

Gilson, Ill., Jan. 6. C. W. McKOWN.

## Poor Honey Season.

We had the poorest honey season last summer that we had had in years. I had 12 colonies, spring count, got 618 pounds of honey, and no increase.

I think the American Bee Journal a splendid paper, that every bee-man ought to take.

Eureka, Mich.

## The Season of 1895.

I started last spring with 15 colonies, 13 in good condition. We had nice weather the last days in April, and the first ten in May, with light thunder showers, but May 12 we had a heavy frost, and that night and the next day a heavy snow storm, the snow froze on the fruit-trees, so that some limbs broke off. May 14 it froze very hard, and a week later again. I saw drones about ten days earlier than other years, but in June and July the bees killed them all. The first three weeks in August they were busy on buckwheat, but there was only a few acres in reach of the bees. August 17 I had a swarm; I gave them seven frames with honey, and three with comb foundation.

We did not get any honey here. I bought about 15 pounds of sugar to feed the bees. One of my neighbors, who has 10 colonies, gave them about 20 pounds of honey in June, and bought \$7.00 worth sugar and fed them in the fall.

My cellar is cemented where I keep my bees in winter. Wm. DUESCHER.  
Wrightstown, Wis., Jan. 17.

## Bees Wintering All Right.

So far as I know, bees are wintering all right out-doors. They did not do much last summer here. I got 250 pounds of honey, mostly from buckwheat. There were 42 acres about a mile from them; no clover, and but little basswood. I hope for better times to come. My bees are all in long sheds packed all around with chaff. I had to feed four of them with sugar syrup. D. D. DANHER.

Madison, Wis., Jan. 25.

## Sweet Clover Growing in Florida.

When I came to St. Andrews Bay for the first time, five years ago, I brought some sweet clover seed with me, hoping to introduce this plant for forage and honey. I've continued to sow it from year to year, in the edges of the ti-ties, by the sides of the roads, in brush-heaps, and piles of oyster shells, on rotten shell walks, and on my own lots. I think that I've given it a faithful trial, and my only reward has been to see one plant last spring, which had disappeared on my return.

As far as my observation goes, it does not thrive on a loose soil. I've seen it upon country roads in Illinois so thick and high that they were almost impassable. It clings to clayey, gravelly hillsides, where scarcely

## Honey & Beeswax Market Quotations.

**CHICAGO, ILL., Jan. 18.**—White clover and linden comb honey is scarce and commands a premium over other grades of white of 1 to 3 cents per pound. There is a fair supply of other grades, which bring 12@13c. for white, and amber to dark ranges at 9@11c. Extracted is without special change: the Western ambers at 4½@5c.; white, 5@6c.; clover and basswood in cans and barrels, 6@7c. Beeswax, 28@30c. R. A. B. & Co.

**CHICAGO, ILL., Jan. 20.**—We are having good inquiry for fancy comb, but all other grades are selling slow. Dark comb will not sell on this market, and we would advise the producer not to ship it here. We are offering it as low as 9@10c., with no buyers. We quote: Fancy, 15c.; No. 1, 14c.; light amber, 12@13c. Extracted, light, 5@6½c.; dark, 4@5c. Beeswax, 28@30c. J. A. L.

**PHILADELPHIA, PA., Jan. 3.**—Honey has declined in this market during the holidays. Large lots of California honey arriving, and selling at 5c. in 60-lb. cans. We quote: Comb honey, fancy, 16c.; fair to good, 8@14c. Extracted, 4@5½c.; white clover, 10c. Beeswax, 30c. W. A. S.

**BUFFALO, N. Y., Jan. 22.**—Sales very light and market dull. We quote: Fancy white, 14@15c.; choice, 11@13c.; buckwheat, 7@9c. Extracted, 4@6c. Beeswax, 25@28c. B. & Co.

**CINCINNATI, O., Jan. 22.**—Demand is slow for comb honey, which brings 12@14c. for best white. The demand is fair for extracted honey at 4@7c., with a scant supply. Beeswax is in good demand at 23@28c. for good to choice yellow. C. F. M. & S.

**KANSAS CITY, MO., Feb. 8.**—The demand for comb and extracted is light. We quote: No. 1 white, 1-lbs., 13@14c.; No. 2, 12@13c.; No. 1 amber, 11@12c.; No. 2, 8@10c. Extracted, white, 5½@6c.; amber, 5@5½c. Beeswax, 22@25c. C. C. C. & Co.

## List of Honey and Beeswax Dealers.

Most of whom Quote in this Journal.

### Chicago, Ills.

**R. A. BURNETT & Co.,** 163 South Water Street.  
**New York, N. Y.**

**F. I. SAGE & SON,** 183 Reade Street.  
**HILDRETH BROS. & SEGELEN,** 120 & 122 West Broadway.  
**CHAS. ISRAEL & BROS.,** 486 Canal St.

### Kansas City, Mo.

**C. C. CLEMOMS & Co.,** 423 Walnut St.

### Buffalo, N. Y.

**BATTERSON & Co.,** 167 & 169 Scott St.

### Hamilton, Ills.

**CHAS. DADANT & SON,**

### Philadelphia, Pa.

**WM. A. SELSER,** 10 Vine St.

### Cincinnati, Ohio.

**C. F. MUTH & SON,** cor. Freeman & Central avs.

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another plant could hold. It is a valuable acquisition where its good qualities are known. Stock learn to eat it, and fowls revel in it, as it comes up so rank and green before other clovers.

There was but little surplus honey stored in this locality during the past season, as the early part was very wet, followed by a severe drought. The winter has been quite cool, with a number of frosts, yet there have been but a few days when bees did not fly and bring in pollen from the swamps. Intelligent bee-culture is moving slowly forward. MRS. L. HARRISON.

St. Andrews Bay, Fla., Jan. 18.

#### Breeding Out the Swarming Fever.

Mr. Doolittle has given a nice solution of the question, but oh, dear! to think of breeding out the swarm fever—*never, no never can this be accomplished!* Seasons may change the state of affairs, in which persons are led to believe certain theories have accomplished. Mr. D. may have a similar year to 1870. Some three or four years ago I had colonies that swarmed five and six times, each being hived. Since that time I have not had a swarm, and do all I could to make them swarm, nary a swarm issued. There is nothing in it. Mr. D. God so created the busy little bee with the instinct to swarm, the same as he created in man the power of will to love God or reject his salvation. J. A. GOLDEN.

Reinersville, Ohio.

#### Fair Crop—Wintering Well.

My last season's crop of honey was a fair one, mostly all white, from wild mustard and golden-rod. The bees are wintering well so far, in the cellars.

Tracy, Minn., Jan. 28. EVAN J. DAVIS.

#### Good Report from Florida.

My average yield for 1895, was 184 pounds of extracted honey from 26 colonies of hybrid bees, spring count, and increased to 46. H. F. BAKER.

Bristol, Fla., Jan. 21.

#### Results of Three Seasons.

The past was a very poor season for white honey in northeastern Ohio. Basswood buds were killed by frost, and white clover failed to secrete honey. My report is 2,000 pounds of honey, about 1,700 being extracted (all from fall bloom), from 50 colonies, spring count, many of them being reduced to a mere handful and a queen in the spring. My crop is all sold at 10 cents for extracted, and 12½ for comb honey, besides selling 400 or 500 pounds for my neighbors. I now have 60 colonies. Although two of the past three seasons were counted poor in this section, yet I have secured a total of about 9,000 pounds the past three seasons, from an average of less than 50 colonies, spring count. Bees are wintering well. B. W. PECK.

Richmond Centre, Ohio, Jan. 26.

#### Black Bees—Doubling Swarms.

Dr. Miller, I was just joking about the black bees. I felt good because I got a surplus when people 500 miles south of me didn't, but it is a fact that my blacks and hybrids have done better than my yellow beauties, and I think if you could have handled my bees they would have done much better. I raised 1,000 bushels of wheat, 1,200 of oats, 500 of corn, 125 of rye, 600 of potatoes, and made 35 tons of hay, and only hired 18 days' work in 1895. So I think my bees did well.

Can we put two or more swarms into one hive? My bees swarmed clear out of reason in 1895, so I tried doubling. I put 15 swarms into 5 hives, put 14 more into 7 hives, and run 4 back into the parent hive. Of the first, all came out queenless in three weeks; of the second, 2 came out queenless;

and of the third, I found 2 without any bees, and solid full of honey when I went to put them into the cellar. I had two old colonies that swarmed five times each.

S. M. ROBERTSON.

Grey Eagle, Minn., Jan. 18.

#### Bees Did Not Do Well.

The last two years the bees did not do well on account of the drought. In 1894 they did not get enough, so I had to feed them to get them through the winter. The spring of 1895 started out finely till the frost came about May 10, which killed all the blossoms, and the white clover was frozen out so badly that there was hardly any left. But the fall was good, and the bees had 275 pounds of surplus honey. I have 12 colonies. I pack them in two boxes, 8x3, and 3 feet high, and then put chaff all around.

We have had a nice winter; it is so warm to-day (Jan. 22) that the bees are flying.

LOUIS HARTING.

Arthur, Iowa.

## The Bee-Keepers' Guide:

### Or Manual of the Apiary,

BY PROF. A. J. COOK.

This 15th and latest edition of Prof. Cook's magnificent book of 460 pages, in neat and substantial cloth binding, we propose to give away to our present subscribers, for the work of getting NEW subscribers for the American Bee Journal.

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**T. F. BINGHAM, Farwell, Mich.**

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## The National Bee-Keepers' Union

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The canvass of all the votes received up to the time of closing the polls, on February 1, 1896, showed that 153 ballots were received, and they were given to the Judges of Election to open and count. The following is their Report:

CHICAGO, Feb. 5, 1896.

We, the Committee on Ballots of the National Bee-Keepers' Union, find the votes cast as follows, for Officers for 1896:

Total number of votes cast, 153, of which one was blank.

### FOR PRESIDENT—

Hon. R. L. Taylor, 100; Dr. C. C. Miller, 17; Prof. A. J. Cook, 8; Hon. Eugene Secor, 5; A. I. Root, 5; G. M. Doolittle, 2; R. F. Holtermann, 2.—W. Z. Hutchinson, James Heddon, Geo. W. Brodbeck, G. W. Demaree, P. H. Elwood, C. P. Dadant, C. K. Decker, Chas. Dadant, C. F. Muth, Dr. J. P. H. Brown and Frank Benton, 1 each.

### FOR VICE-PRESIDENTS.

Prof. A. J. Cook, 116; G. M. Doolittle, 115; Dr. C. C. Miller, 109; Hon. Eugene Secor, 101; A. I. Root, 91; G. W. York, 10; C. P. Dadant, 18; R. F. Holtermann, 16; Hon. R. L. Taylor, 14; E. R. Root, 14; C. F. Muth, 13; Geo. W. Brodbeck, 11; P. H. Elwood, 9; Dr. A. B. Mason, 8; G. W. Demaree, 8; Frank Benton, 7; W. Z. Hutchinson, 6; James Heddon, 6; Charles Dadant, 5; Hon. Geo. E. Hilton, 5; J. H. Martin, 4.—Jas. A. Stone, E. France, Thos. G. Newman, Rev. E. T. Abbott and Mrs. J. Atchley, 3 each.—Wm. McEvoy, J. A. Green, C. A. Hatch and R. Wilkin, 2 each.—B. Taylor, R. McKnight, Bob Ingersoll, C. S. Burley, G. G. Baldwin, James Arnott, H. G. Acklin, H. C. Wheeler, J. LaRue, O. C. Blanchard, M. H. Mendleson, Captain J. E. Hetherington, Wm. Muth-Rasmussen, C. Theilmann, L. A. Aspinwall, J. C. Wheeler, Dr. J. P. H. Brown, D. P. Stevenson, E. A. Boone, J. T. Calvert, Mathias Hettel, D. C. McLeod, O. M. Pierson and A. W. Spracklen, 1 each.

### FOR GENERAL MANAGER, SEC. AND TREAS.

Thomas G. Newman, 142; Geo. W. York, 4.—C. C. Miller, J. A. Green, J. T. Calvert, M. H. Mendleson and R. Dumphmore, 1 each.

Respectfully submitted,

**C. C. MILLER, } Committee.  
GEO. W. YORK, }**

The old Officers are therefore all re-elected, to serve for another year.

THOMAS G. NEWMAN,  
147 South Western Ave., Chicago, Ill.

**Botanical Gazette.**—Any of the readers of the Bee Journal who are interested in a periodical discussing the higher scientific phases of botanical subjects should write for a sample copy of the Botanical Gazette, which may be had by addressing Prof. J. C. Arthur, Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind. Mention this Journal.

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## WINTRY WEATHER WEAKENS

the system, lowers the vitality, and decreases the power of resistance against colds and chills. Many people are feeling weak and shivery just now. They complain of cold hands and feet. Their blood doesn't circulate properly; the raw, bleak air seems to go right through them. Others feel worn out, and lack vigor. They are bilious, nervous, have backaches, headaches, and a pale, sallow complexion. All these symptoms indicate that the liver and kidneys are out of order. Feeble circulation of the blood shows that the system is in a very low condition. People who feel like this are facing some dangers they little suspect.

## LOOK OUT

for pneumonia, influenza, or some other dangerous complaint when you are in this state!

If you have any of these symptoms, and are not feeling as well as you ought to feel, do not wait until you are laid up with a serious illness. Act at once. Take something that will build up the system, put the blood in healthful motion, and act on the liver and kidneys. Prevention is better than cure.

There is only one way to get well. There is only one remedy that can make you well. The remedy you need is Warner's Safe Cure which is recommended and prescribed by physicians throughout the world. This great remedy contains the vital principle essential to the maintenance of health and strength. It increases the muscular energy, fortifies the system and builds up every part of the body. It has never been equaled as a cure for liver and kidney complaint, bladder trouble or Bright's disease. It is the great standard remedy, the best remedy, the most reliable remedy known to medical science. Every one who has ever tried it, believes in it.

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## Question-Box.

In the multitude of counsellors there is safety.—Prov. 11-14.

### The Best Surplus Arrangement.

**Query 5.**—What do you think the best surplus arrangement—wide frames, or what?

Prof. A. J. Cook—I like the T super.

Mrs. L. Harrison—One-pound sections.

Dr. C. C. Miller—T supers suit me the best of all I've tried.

Dr. J. P. H. Brown—Top storing in section cases or holders.

W. R. Graham—I prefer sections or half-depth shallow frames.

H. D. Cutting—I have used the T super with the best results.

R. L. Taylor—Wide frames, if correctly made. Next to that is the Heddon case.

J. M. Hamaugh—Were I a honey specialist, I think I would use the Miller T super.

C. H. Dibbern—I have a method of my own that I prefer to either wide frames or the tin T super.

P. H. Elwood—I have used wide frames and other styles, and do not find very much difference.

G. M. Doolittle—I use wide frames, and enjoy them much more than any "or what" ever invented.

E. France—I use a slatted super holding sections enough to cover the frames. Set it on over the brood-nest.

Emerson T. Abbott—A super with pattern-slats in the bottom, with followers and wedges at the side and end.

W. G. Larrabee—I use a slatted bottom super that holds 16 pounds, two to cover the top of the hive, which I like best.

Jas. A. Stone—4 1/4 x 4 1/4 x 2-inch sections, in section-cases, on wood strips cut the shape of the bottoms of the sections.

Allen Pringle—I presume you mean for sections. If so, then my answer is, I have never seen anything yet that suited me as well as the wide frames.

J. A. Green—Section-holders. These are wide frames for one tier of sections with separators, but no top-bar, fitting closely into an outer case, with beespace at the top.

G. W. Demaree—I have tried almost everything, and I like the T cases best of all. The "wide frame" is the worst of all the sticky traps I have thrown away, or met with.

J. E. Pond—I use the wide frame, and so far have found it satisfactory. Several kinds of surplus arrangements are used, but I have so far "stuck to" the old plan of wide frames.

B. Taylor—T supers with my slotted separators make the finest finished sections of anything I have used. I shall try single-tier wide frames without any case in connection with the new separators next season, and report.

Eugene Seeor—if you mean by wide frames some such arrangement as the new Heddon super, that is all right. If you mean the old Root idea of sections

in wide frames, I don't like them. The new wide-frame section-holder is good. Also the T super.

Rev. M. Mahin—I have found wide frames pretty good, and yet after having used a small number of them at several times, I have discarded them, and I can hardly tell why. What I am using now is a little like the Heddon case, if I know what that is.

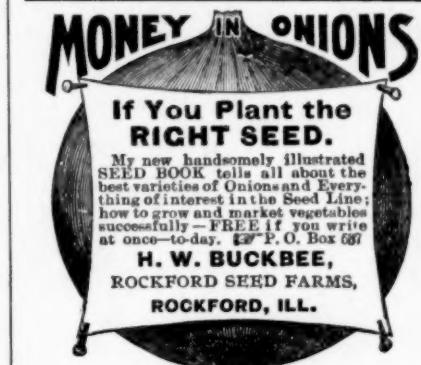


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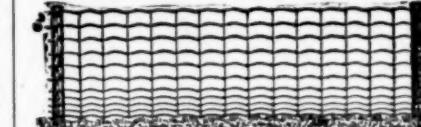
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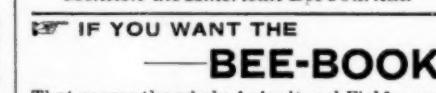
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